Laying of Wardha-Nanded-Yavatmal rail line

*403. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since forwarded the project regarding laying of rail line in Wardha-Nanded-Yavatmal to the Planning Commission for approval as promised by the Railway Minister in the Budget Session;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, by when Government are likely to forward the above project to the Planning Commission for approval?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The survey for the new line from Wardha to Nanded *via* Yavatmal has been undertaken and field studies have been completed. The proposal would be processed further for necessary approvals after receipt of survey report which is expected to be available by July, 2006.

Pollution in Ganga

*406. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that pollution of holy river Ganga has assumed serious proportion inspite of action plans phase-I (1992-97) and Phase-II (1995-2001);

(b) if so, the steps being considered to minimize the pollution level of the river;

(c) whether Government are considering to ask the concerned States for raising money by levying minimum user charges; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) With the completion of the works of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I (1985-2000) as well as projects undertaken under GAP Phase-II (1995 onwards) and notwithstanding the phenomenal increase in urban population leading to substantial increase in the pollution load of the river Ganga over the past years, its water quality has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality. A tabular Statement is attached (*See* below).

Under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, pollution abatement works of Ganga river were taken up in 25 cities spread over the States of UP, Bihar